

AWAVA – Australian Women Against Violence Alliance

Vision, Values, Principles and Objectives

AWAVA Vision

To ensure that all women and their children are able to live free from all forms of violence and abuse

AWAVA Values and Principles

HUMAN RIGHTS

AWAVA recognises that gender-based violence against women is one of the most serious and widespread violations of fundamental human rights, in particular, the right not to be treated in an inhuman and degrading way, the rights to respect, to physical, sexual and psychological integrity.

FEMINIST FRAMEWORK

AWAVA employs a feminist approach that understands gender-based violence against women as both a consequence and cause of gender inequity, which is embedded deeply within all levels of our society. Violence is perpetrated through institutions and the public sphere as well as in the privacy of intimate relationships. Efforts to end gender-based violence against women must be accountable to women and promote women's empowerment and social and gender equality.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSIVITY

AWAVA is committed to representing and working respectfully with the diversity of women in Australia and prioritises collaborative approaches that draw on diverse knowledge. AWAVA recognises that the experience and impact of sexual and gender-based violence against women is not evenly distributed and that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, immigrant and refugee women, women from non-English speaking backgrounds, women with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and asexual (LGBTIQA+) women, and women in the sex industry are subjected to interpersonal and public violence at greater than average rates, and that such violence is compounded by experiences of marginalisation. Additional factors such as women's location also affect their experience of violence and its impact. AWAVA recognises that gender-based violence against women needs to be understood in the context of oppression and privilege arising from the intersection of race, colonisation, class, sexual orientation and gender identity, ethnicity, nationality, religion, dis/ability and age.

We also recognise that AWAVA is located within these forms of oppression and privilege. We recognise our responsibility to act ethically in terms of our positions in these structures and to reflect on our ways of working, our communication and representation. In terms of scope, this means we need to be attentive to violence inflicted upon people in settings, relationships and dynamics that do not necessarily fit the forms most familiar to recent policy and service provision in this area (domestic violence and sexual assault in intimate partner couple relationships).

We recognise the primary ethical imperative to hear and respond to voices of people interpreting their own situations and making sense of the violence inflicted upon them, which may be in ways that challenge or complicate understandings of gender inequality as they have been conceived within existing power structures (including within AWAVA). Our aim is therefore mutual support and where appropriate partnership-building.

We consider the category 'women' to include all who self-identify as a woman.

AWAVA Objectives are to:

- Provide leadership and advocacy at state and national levels in relation to all aspects of sexual and gender-based violence against women.
 - Bring together in a single body the key stakeholders concerned with all aspects of gender-based violence against women in order to access and disseminate the wealth and diversity of knowledge within the sector as a whole.
 - Provide policy advice and monitor policies, legislation, programs and practices which impact on women and children experiencing gender-based violence.
 - Promote and prioritise equity of access to services for all women including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, women from immigrant, refugee and/or non-English speaking background, women with disabilities, lesbian and same sex attracted women, trans women, women in situations of multiple disadvantage, women in rural and isolated areas, older women and young women.
 - Promote primary prevention of gender-based violence against women in all its forms.
 - Contribute to community awareness of gender-based violence against women and its personal and social consequences using community development, health promotion and educational strategies.
 - Build and promote alliances and collaborative relationships with key stakeholders and networks.
 - Promote, further develop and disseminate 'cutting edge' knowledge of gender-based violence against women arising from practice, research, community and activism.
 - Connect with international mechanisms and developments in advocacy, research and practice concerning gender-based violence against women.
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